<u>WE CLAIM:</u>

1. A method for assisting collaboration between participants in a business community comprising:

providing on a display device a business view depicting a plurality of interlocked polygons illustrating interactions between the participants, the polygons being positioned relative to each other to define a sequence of instructions; and

deriving an interaction view from the business view, the interaction view depicting additional information between the participants.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing, in the business view, an indication of the benefits from the interactions.

3. The method of claim 1, further including:

providing a component view depicting an implementation of the business and interaction view in a physical system.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein providing the component view includes depicting the availability of IT components in the physical system.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein providing the component view includes depicting the activities of software components.

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6.   A method for displaying collaboration between participants in a business community, comprising:

rendering a first graphical depiction of a sequence of interactions between the participants; and
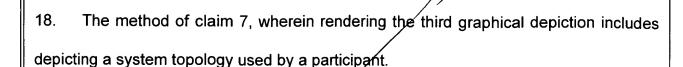
rendering a second graphical depiction, derived from the first graphical depiction, containing information flow.

7.   The method of claim 6, further including:

rendering a third graphical depiction depicting an implementation of the first and second graphical depiction in a physical system.

8.   The method of claim 6, wherein rendering the first graphical depiction includes, representing a plurality of interactions depicted as interlocking polygons.

9.   The method of claim 6, wherein rendering the graphical depictions includes, vertically aligning representations of interactions involving one of the participants.

10.   The method of claim 6, wherein rendering the graphical depictions include, vertically aligning representations of the business benefits, wherein the business benefits correspond to at least one participant.

11.   The method of claim 6, wherein rendering the graphical depictions includes, vertically aligning representations of quantifiable business benefits, wherein the quantifiable business benefits provide a basis for ROI calculations.

12.   The method of claim 6, further including producing a link from the first graphical depiction to the second graphical depiction.

13.   The method of claim 6, wherein rendering the second graphical depiction includes providing additional information regarding interdependency of the participants.

14.   The method of claim 6, wherein rendering the second graphical depiction includes depicting a sequence of activities.

15.   The method of claim 6, wherein rendering the second graphical depiction includes depicting information sharing between participants.

16.   The method of claim 6, wherein rendering the second graphical depiction includes depicting roles in the collaboration.

17.   The method of claim 6, wherein rendering the second graphical depiction includes depicting features in the collaboration.

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18.   The method of claim 7, wherein rendering the third graphical depiction includes depicting a system topology used by a participant.

19.   The method of claim 18, wherein rendering the third graphical depiction includes depicting distributed and centralized systems.

20.   The method of claim 7, wherein the third graphical depiction is derived from the second graphical depiction and contains additional information regarding the collaboration between participants.

21.   A method of displaying a value chain optimization in a collaborative business scenario, comprising the steps, executed in a data processing system, of:

displaying a first view consisting of

a plurality of interlocking polygons, wherein the polygons corresponding to each participant being vertically aligned and the activities of the participants;

business benefits of each activity being shown in a vertical arrangement.

22.   The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

displaying a second view consisting of

participants of the collaborative business scenario in vertical lanes;

activities of the participants depicted illustrated as interlocking polygons; and

information flow between the participants illustrated as lines linking the interlocking polygons; and

connectors connecting a line and an activity illustrating a direction of document exchange.

23.   The method of 22, further including displaying a third view consisting of:

a system topology at a particular participant's site

24. A method for creating a collaboration between participants in a business scenario, comprising the steps, executed in a data processing system, of:

identifying a collaborative business, participants in the collaborative business, and activities of the participants;

identifying functionality of the activities;

identifying system requirements used to implement the collaborative business;

identifying quantitative and qualitative business benefits based on a collaboration between participants;

identifying an industry and corresponding solution maps relating to the collaborative business; and

creating a collaboration based on information obtained in the identifying steps.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the participants are consumers, enterprises, and/or electronic marketplaces.

26.   A system for displaying collaboration between participants in a business community, comprising:

first rendering means for rendering a first graphical depiction of a sequence of interactions between the participants; and

second rendering means for rendering a second graphical depiction, derived from the first graphical depiction, containing information flow.

27.   The system of claim 26, further comprising:

third rendering means for rendering a third graphical depiction depicting an implementation of the first and second graphical depiction in a physical system.

28.   The system of claim 26, wherein the first rendering means renders the interactions depicted as interlocking polygons.

29.   The system of claim 26, wherein the first rendering means further comprises aligning means for vertically aligning representations of interactions involving one of the participants.

30.   The system of claim 26, wherein the first rendering means further comprises aligning means for vertically aligning representations of the business benefits, wherein the business benefits correspond to at least one participant.

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31.   The system of claim 26, wherein the first rendering means further comprises aligning means for vertically aligning representations of quantifiable business benefits, wherein the quantifiable business benefits provide a basis for ROI calculations.

32.   The system of claim 26, further comprising producing means for producing a link from the first graphical depiction to the second graphical depiction.

33.   The system of claim 26, wherein the second rendering means further renders additional information regarding interdependency of the participants in the second graphical depiction.

34.   The system of claim 26, wherein the second rendering means further renders a sequence of activities.

35.   The system of claim 26, wherein the second rendering means further renders information sharing between participants.

36.   The system of claim 26, wherein the second rendering means further renders roles in the collaboration.

37.   The system of claim 26, wherein the second rendering means further renders features in the collaboration.

38.   The system of claim 27, wherein the third rendering means further renders a system topology used by a participant.

39.   The system of claim 38, wherein the third rendering means further renders distributed and centralized systems.

40. A computer readable medium for controlling a data processing system to perform a method for displaying collaboration between participants in a business community executed in a data processing system, the computer readable medium comprising:

a rendering module for rendering a first graphical depiction of a sequence of interactions between the participants; and

a second rendering module for rendering a second graphical depiction, derived from the first graphical depiction, containing information flow.

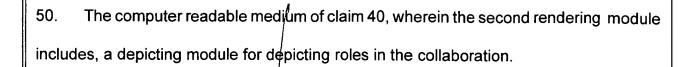41. The computer readable medium of claim 40, further comprising:

a third rendering module for rendering a third graphical depiction depicting an implementation of the first and second graphical depiction in a physical system.

42. The computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the rendering module includes a representing module for representing a plurality of interactions depicted as interlocking polygons.

43. The computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the second rendering module includes a representation module for vertically aligning representations of interactions involving one of the participants.

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44.   The computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the rendering module includes, a representation module for vertically aligning representations of the business benefits, wherein the business benefits correspond to at least one participant.

45.   The computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the rendering module includes, a representation module for vertically aligning representations of quantifiable business benefits, wherein the quantifiable business benefits provide a basis for ROI calculations.

46.   The computer readable medium of claim 40, further including a producing module for producing a link from the first graphical depiction to the second graphical depiction.

47.   The computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the second rendering module includes, a providing module for providing additional information regarding interdependency of the participants.

48.   The computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the second rendering module includes, a depicting module for depicting a sequence of activities.

49.   The computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the second rendering module includes, a depicting module for depicting information sharing between participants.

50.   The computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the second rendering module includes, a depicting module for depicting roles in the collaboration.

51.   The computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the second rendering module includes, a depicting module for depicting features in the collaboration.

52.   The computer readable medium of claim 41, wherein the third rendering module includes, a depicting module for depicting a system topology used by a participant.

53.   The computer readable medium of claim 52, wherein the third rendering module includes, a depicting module for depicting distributed and centralized systems.

54.   The computer readable medium of claim 51, wherein the third graphical depiction is derived from the second graphical depiction and contains additional information regarding the collaboration between participants.

55.   A computer readable medium for controlling a data processing system to perform a method for displaying a value chain optimization in a collaborative business scenario executed in a data processing system, the computer readable medium comprising:

a displaying module for displaying a first view consisting of

a plurality of interlocking polygons, wherein the polygons corresponding to each participant being vertically aligned and the activities of the participants;

business benefits of each activity being shown in a vertical arrangement.

56.   The computer readable medium of claim 55, further comprising:

a displaying module for displaying a second view consisting of

participants of the collaborative business scenario in vertical lanes;

activities of the participants depicted illustrated as interlocking polygons; and

information flow between the participants illustrated as lines linking the interlocking polygons; and

connectors connecting a line and an activity illustrating a direction of document exchange.

57.   The computer readable medium of 55, further including a displaying module for displaying a third view consisting of:

a system topology at a particular participant's site.